

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing notification of an incoming email message to a subscriber, comprising:

an email server to which the incoming email message is sent and on which the incoming email is stored;

an email notification server to automatically poll the email server for presence of at least one new email message ~~messages when a pre-determined amount of time has elapsed;~~

a header extraction process to extract the header of the ~~incoming~~ new e-mail message;

a text-to-speech converter to extract at least a portion of the header to speech as converted header information;

a process to call a voicemail server corresponding to the subscriber and leave a voicemail message indicating the presence of the new email message and which contains the converted header information;

a process to notify the subscriber of the voicemail message;

a process to call a voicemail server corresponding to the subscriber and leave a voicemail message indicating the presence of the new email message and containing the converted header information ~~as a voicemail message; and~~

a process to notify the subscriber of the voicemail message indicating the presence of the new email message.

~~wherein the email notification server is configured to call the voicemail server and leave the voicemail message in the voicemail server and wherein the email notification server is further configured to notify the subscriber of the email, wherein the email notification is separate from and in addition to leaving the voicemail message.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The system recited in claim 1, wherein the process to notify the subscriber of the voicemail message comprises sending the converted header information to the subscriber.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The system recited in claim 1, wherein the subscriber has more than one email account and wherein the email notification server automatically polls each email account of the subscriber for the presence of new email message.

5. (Original) The system recited in claim 4, wherein each email account has a different predetermined amount of time that the email notification server waits prior to polling the email account.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying a subscriber of the presence of new email messages, comprising:

automatically polling an email account associated with the subscriber by an email notification server for the presence of at least one new email message ~~messages~~ when a predetermined amount of time has elapsed;

obtaining ~~any~~ new email message ~~messages~~;

extracting at least a portion of header information of ~~each~~ the new email message as extracted header information;

contacting, by the email notification server, a voicemail system associated with the subscriber;

leaving, by the email notification server, a voicemail message for the subscriber indicating the presence of the new email message and containing the header information; and

~~notifying, by the email notification server, the subscriber of the voicemail message~~ indicating the presence of the new email message ~~of each new email message as extracted header information, wherein the email notification is separate from and in addition to leaving the voicemail message.~~

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of converting the extracted header information to speech as converted header information.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 7, further comprising: determining whether the subscriber has additional email accounts; and repeating the steps of claim 7 for each email account if the subscriber has multiple email accounts.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the email notification server service automatically polls each of the additional email accounts for presence of new email message, and wherein each of the additional email accounts has a different predetermined amount of time that the email notification service waits to poll new email message.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for providing email notification to a plurality of subscribers, comprising:

one or more email servers to which emails destined for any of the plurality of subscribers are sent and stored;

a database system containing an account record corresponding to each of the plurality of subscribers;

a notification server coupled to the database system, the notification server comprising:

a first process to automatically poll the one or more email servers to determine if there are any new email messages for the plurality of subscribers, wherein the one or more email servers for the plurality of subscriber are assigned with different predetermined amounts of time that the first process waits to poll for the new email messages; and

a second process to read an account record in the database corresponding to each subscriber to determine information needed to notify each subscriber, the second process further configured to notify, for each subscriber, leave a voicemail message indicating the presence of a any new email message ~~messages in accordance with the account record information~~ and to notify that subscriber of the voicemail message indicating the presence of the new email message.

14. (Previously Presented) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the notification server further comprises a third process to automatically obtain each new email message from each of the one or more email servers, convert at least a portion of the email header associated with each new email message from text to speech as converted header information and to send the converted header information to a voice mailbox corresponding to the subscriber to whom the email was directed.

15. (Previously Presented) The system recited in claim 13, wherein prior to polling for a particular subscriber, the first process first determines if a predetermined time that is preset to the particular subscriber has been reached, and polling for the particular subscriber only if the predetermined time has been reached.

16. (Previously Presented) The system recited in claim 13, wherein one or more of the subscribers has a plurality of email accounts, and the first process polls each of the plurality of email accounts for each of the subscribers, wherein each of the plurality of email accounts is assigned with a different predetermined amount of time that the first process waits to poll for the presence of any new email messages.

17. (Previously Presented) The system recited in claim 15, wherein prior to polling a particular email account for a particular subscriber, the first process first determined if a predetermined time that is preset for the particular email account has been reached, and polling the particular email account for the particular subscriber only if the predetermined time has been reached.

18. (Original) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the account record contains email contact information for the subscriber corresponding to the account record.

19. (Original) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the email contact information includes a field describing a type of email system.

20. (Original) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the account record contains voicemail contact information for the subscriber corresponding to the account record.

21. (Original) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the account record contains pager contact information for the subscriber corresponding to the account record.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a computer program for providing email notification to a plurality of subscribers, the program comprising ~~the steps of:~~

connecting a database to obtain an account record for a particular subscriber;

obtaining email account contact information for the particular subscriber from the account record for the particular subscriber;

automatically polling the email account according to the email account contact information for the presence of at least one new email message ~~when a predetermined amount of time has elapsed~~; and

causing the particular subscriber to be notified of the new email message in the email account when the new ~~mail~~ email message has been polled from the email account, wherein causing the subscriber to be notified comprises:

obtaining at least a portion of the header information from each new email for the particular subscriber;

converting the obtained header information from each the new email message for the particular subscriber;

sending the converted header information to a voicemail system associated with the particular subscriber in accordance with voicemail system contact information contained in the account record for the particular subscriber; and

notifying, in the server, the subscriber of each the new email message ~~as~~ using the converted header information, wherein the email notification is separate from and in addition to sending the converted header to the voicemail system.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium recited in claim 22, wherein the particular subscriber has multiple email accounts, the program further comprising:

automatically polling each of the email accounts for the presence of new email, wherein the multiple email accounts are polled in different predetermined amounts of time; and

causing the particular subscriber to be notified of the presence of email in any of the email accounts.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium recited in claim 22, wherein polling the email account comprises polling the email account only after a predetermined time has elapsed.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium recited in claim 22, wherein causing the subscriber to be notified comprises sending a page to the particular subscriber in accordance with pager contact information contained in the account record.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for providing email notification to a plurality of subscribers, comprising:

connecting to a database to obtain an account record for a particular subscriber; obtaining email account contact information for the particular subscriber from the account record for the particular subscriber;

~~when a predetermined amount of time has elapsed, by an email notification server,~~ automatically polling, by an email notification server, the email account according to the email account contact information for the presence of new email; and

causing the particular subscriber to be notified of a new email message in the email account by the email notification server, wherein causing the subscriber to be notified comprises:

obtaining at least a portion of the header information from ~~each~~ the new email ~~message~~ for the particular subscriber;

converting the obtained header information to speech;

sending the converted header information to a voicemail system associated with the particular subscriber in accordance with voicemail system information contained in the account record for the particular subscriber; and

notifying the subscriber of ~~each~~ the new email message ~~as using the~~ converted header information, wherein the email notification is separate from and in addition to sending the converted header information to the voicemail system.

29. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 28, wherein the particular subscriber has multiple email accounts, further comprising:

automatically polling each of the email accounts for the presence of new email, wherein the multiple email accounts are polled in different predetermined amounts of time; and

causing the particular subscriber to be notified of the presence of new email in any of the email accounts.

30. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 29, wherein the multiple email accounts are on multiple email servers.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 28, wherein causing the subscriber to be notified comprises sending a page to the particular subscriber in accordance with pager contact information contained in the account record.

34. (Currently Amended) A system for providing notification of an incoming email ~~message~~ to a subscriber, comprising:

an email server to which the incoming email message is sent and on which ~~the~~ an incoming email message is stored;

an email notification server to automatically poll the email server for the presence of new email messages ~~the incoming email message, where the polling occurs after a predetermined amount of time;~~

a header extraction process to extract the header of the incoming email message;

a text-to-speech converter to convert at least a portion of the header to speech as converted header information; and

~~a process to automatically notify the subscriber of the incoming email message, wherein the notification process is performed by the email notification server, and wherein the process to automatically notify the subscriber of the incoming email message comprises:~~

~~a process to call a voicemail server corresponding to the subscriber and leave a voicemail message containing the converted header information; and, wherein the voicemail server includes a process for automatically notifying the subscriber of the email message separate from and in addition to leaving the voicemail message.~~

a process for automatically notifying the subscriber of the email message separate from and in addition to leaving the voicemail message.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously Presented) The system recited in claim 34, wherein the email notification server waits for the predetermined amount of time prior to polling the email server to obtain the incoming message.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The system recited in claim 34, wherein the predetermined amount of time is random.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying a subscriber of the presence of new email ~~messages~~, comprising:

automatically polling, by an email notification server, an email account associated with the subscriber for the presence of at least one new email ~~messages~~ message ~~when a predetermined amount of time has elapsed~~;

obtaining ~~any~~ the new email ~~messages~~ message identified in response to the polling;

extracting at least a portion of header information of ~~each~~ the new email message identified in response to the polling;

contacting, by the email notification server, a voicemail system associated with the subscriber;

leaving, by the email notification server, a voicemail message for the subscriber containing the converted header information; and

automatically notifying, by the email notification server, the subscriber of ~~each~~ the new email message identified in response to the polling, wherein the email notification is separate from and in addition to sending the voicemail message.

40. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 39, further comprising

converting the extracted header information to speech.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 41, further comprising:

determining whether the subscriber has additional email accounts; and
for each additional email account:

automatically polling the additional email account for the presence of new email messages, wherein the multiple email accounts are polled in different predetermined amounts of time;

obtaining any new email messages identified in response to the polling of the additional email account;

extracting at least a portion of header information of each new email message identified in response to the polling of the additional email account; and

automatically notifying the subscriber of each new email message identified in response to the polling of the additional email account.

43. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 42, further comprising determining whether a predetermined time has elapsed for each of the subscriber's email accounts where the subscriber has multiple email accounts.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 39, further comprising sending a page to the subscriber to notify the subscriber of one or more of the new email messages.

46. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 39, further comprising placing a telephone call to a telephone number associated with the subscriber to notify the subscriber of one or more of the new email messages.

47. (New) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the notifying the subscriber of the voicemail message step further comprises:
sending a text message to a digital phone.

48. (New) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the notifying the subscriber of the voicemail message step further comprises:
sending a text message to a digital phone, the text message including the extracted header information.

49. (New) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the second process notifies the subscriber of the voicemail message by sending a pager message to the subscriber.

50. (New) The system recited in claim 13, wherein the second process notifies the subscriber of the voicemail message by sending a pager message to the subscriber which includes the header of the e-mail message.

51. (New) The computer readable medium recited in claim 22, wherein notifying the subscriber of the new email message further comprises:
sending a text message to a digital phone.

52. (New) The computer readable medium recited in claim 22, wherein notifying the subscriber of the new e-mail message step further comprises:
sending a text message to a digital phone, the text message including the extracted header information.

53. (New) The method recited in claim 28, wherein the notifying the subscriber of the new email message step further comprises:
sending a text message to a digital phone.

54. (New) The method recited in claim 28, wherein the notifying the subscriber of the new e-mail message step further comprises:
sending a text message to a digital phone, the text message including the extracted header information.

55. (New) The system recited in claim 34, wherein the process for automatically notifying the subscriber of the e-mail message performs the notification by sending a pager message to the subscriber.

56. (New) The system recited in claim 34, wherein the process for automatically notifying the subscriber of the e-mail message performs the notification by sending a pager message to the subscriber which includes the header of the e-mail message.

57. (New) The method recited in claim 39, wherein the automatically notifying the subscriber of the new e-mail message step further comprises:
sending a text message to a digital phone.

58. (New) The method recited in claim 39, wherein the automatically notifying the subscriber of the new e-mail message step further comprises:

sending a text message to a digital phone, the text message including the extracted header information.